

<b>FISCAL NOTE</b>
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**Bill #:** HB0158

**Title:** Create commission on gasoline pricing competition

**Primary Sponsor:** Christopher Harris

**Status:** As Introduced

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Sponsor signature	Date	Chuck Swysgood, Budget Director	Date
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**Fiscal Summary**

	<u>FY2002 Difference</u>	<u>FY2003 Difference</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
General Fund	\$7,500	\$7,500
<b>Revenue:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Impact on General Fund Balance:</b>	<b>(\$7,500)</b>	<b>(\$7,500)</b>

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<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
	X	Significant Local Gov. Impact		X	Technical Concerns
	X	Included in the Executive Budget		X	Significant Long-Term Impacts
	X	Dedicated Revenue Form Attached		X	Family Impact Form Attached

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**Fiscal Analysis**

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. HB 158 creates and administratively attaches the Commission on Gasoline Pricing Competition to the Department of Commerce. Should HB 158 be enacted, it would be the department's intention to attach the commission to the Weights & Measures Bureau since the bureau would best be able to support the commission in its examination of the motor fuel industry in Montana. The bureau regulates fuel pumps and tests octane levels on a statewide basis, among other duties.

(continued)

2. HB 158 creates a five member commission and provides that commission members may reimbursed for travel expenses pursuant to 2-18-15, MCA. The bureau estimates that the commission would meet approximately six times per year at an estimated cost of \$250 per member, for a total of \$7,500 general fund each year of the 2003 biennium.
3. Limited administrative support for the board could be provided within the state special revenue request contained in the Executive Budget. However, should the commission decide to subpoena witnesses, require court reporters, industry surveys, additional office space and staff, computers, and office equipment as mentioned in subsections 6 and 7(a) and (b) of the bill, then additional general fund would be required. It is thought that this level of support could be as much as \$50,000 general fund per year, in addition to the aforementioned travel expenses.
4. For the purpose of this fiscal note, it is assumed that the commission would require only a limited amount of support.

FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY2002</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Difference</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Operating Expenses	\$7,500	\$7,500
<u>Funding:</u>		
General Fund (01)	\$7,500	\$7,500
<u>Revenues:</u>		
	0	0
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Expenditure):</u>		
General Fund (01)	(\$7,500)	(\$7,500)

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

None